## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (original) An electronic circuit comprising an amplifier stage (AMPST) having an input (IP) for receiving an input signal ( $I_i$ ) and an output (OP) for supplying an output signal ( $I_o$ ), wherein, during operation, the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) increases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) as long as the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) has not exceeded an input reference level ( $I_A$ ), characterized in that the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) is kept approximately constant when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) has exceeded the input reference level ( $I_A$ ) but has not exceeded a further input reference level ( $I_B$ ), and that the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) has exceeded the further input reference level ( $I_B$ ).
- 2. (original) An electronic circuit according to claim 1, characterized in that the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) cannot become lower than an output reference level ( $Io_{mn}$ ) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) has exceeded the further input reference level ( $I_B$ ).

- 3. (currently amended) An electronic circuit according to claim 1  $\frac{\text{or }2}{\text{or }2}$ , characterized in that the further input reference level (I<sub>B</sub>) is approximately equal to the input reference level (I<sub>A</sub>).
- 4. (currently amended) An electronic circuit according to claim 1, 2, or 3, characterized in that the input signal ( $I_i$ ) is an input current ( $I_i$ ), and the output signal ( $I_o$ ) is an output current ( $I_o$ ).
- 5. (original) An electronic circuit according to claim 4, characterized in that the amplifier stage (AMPST) comprises a first current path (CP<sub>1</sub>) coupled between the input (IP) and a common node (cn); a second current path (CP<sub>2</sub>) coupled between the output (OP) and the common node (cn); first control means (FCM) coupled between the input (IP) and the common node (cn) for controlling a voltage ( $V_{cn}$ ) at the common node (cn) and for supplying a current ( $I_2$ ) to the common node (cn), the first control means (FCM) comprising limiting means (LMT) for limiting the current ( $I_2$ ) to the common node (cn) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) has exceeded the input reference level ( $I_A$ ); and second control means (SCM) for supplying a compensation current ( $I_{cmp}$ ) to the input (IP) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) has exceeded the input reference level ( $I_A$ ).

- 6. (original) An electronic circuit according to claim 5, characterized in that the amplifier stage (AMPST) further comprises a third current path (CP3) having a first side coupled to the input (IP) and a second side coupled to the second current path (CP2) for taking away current from the second current path (CP2), such that the strength of the output current ( $I_0$ ) decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ( $I_1$ ) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_2$ ) has exceeded the further input reference level ( $I_2$ ).
- 7. (original) An electronic circuit according to claim 6, characterized in that the amplifier stage (AMPST) further comprises a fourth current path (CP<sub>4</sub>) coupled to the second current path (CP<sub>2</sub>) for supplying current to the second current path (CP<sub>2</sub>) in order to avoid that the output current ( $I_0$ ) can be lower than the output reference level ( $I_{0mn}$ ) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_1$ ) has exceeded the further input reference level ( $I_B$ ).
- 8. (currently amended) An optical/magneto-optical disk recording apparatus comprising a light source (LS) for storing data on a disk (DSK), and light-receiving means (PHDS) for the detection of data from the disk (DSK), characterized in that the apparatus comprises

an electronic circuit as defined in any of the preceding  $\begin{array}{c} \text{elaimsclaim 1}, \text{ wherein the input signal (I_i) of the amplifier stage} \\ \text{(AMPST) is responsive to a signal (A; B; C; D) delivered by the } \\ \text{light-receiving means (PHDS)}. \end{array}$ 

- 9. (original) A method whereby an input signal ( $I_i$ ) is converted into an output signal ( $I_o$ ), and whereby the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) increases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) as long as the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) does not exceed an input reference level ( $I_A$ ), and whereby the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) is kept approximately constant when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) exceeds the input reference level ( $I_A$ ) but does not exceed a further input reference level ( $I_B$ ), and whereby the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) exceeds the further input reference level ( $I_B$ ).
- 10. (original) A method according to claim 9, characterized in that the strength of the output signal ( $I_o$ ) does not become lower than an output reference level ( $I_{omn}$ ) when the strength of the input signal ( $I_i$ ) exceeds the further input reference level ( $I_B$ ).